


(L)G + 7(c)

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

1. **AUTHORITY:** (1) COMDTINST M5830.1; (2) COMDTINST 5810.1D
 2. **PRINCIPLE PURPOSES:** The information solicited will be used for the following purposes:
 - a. To establish the facts and circumstances surrounding the deaths of LT Jessica Hill and BM2 Steven Duque on 17 August 2006 on board the USCGC HEALY.
 - b. To make any determinations required in the course of U.S. Coast Guard administration.
 3. **ROUTINE USES:** To assist U.S. Coast Guard Management decision-making.
 4. **CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO DISCLOSE:** Disclosure is *voluntary*, but if you do not provide the requested information, any determinations or evaluations made as a result of this investigation will be made on the basis of the evidence contained in the investigative record.
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Below is a summary of interview of [REDACTED] conducted by the AIM informal board on August 21, 2006 concerning the diving incident which resulted in two deaths on August 17, 2006. AIM board member present at the interview were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] stated that he works for [REDACTED] and provides [REDACTED] support for the science party aboard CGC HEALY. Specifically, he works with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] had no recollection of any specific events prior to the granting of ice liberty on 17 August 2006. He said his day to day job is very repetitive, and most days were roughly the same. He did say that he remembers hearing rumors of ice liberty earlier in the day, which piqued his attention. When he actually heard the announcement of ice liberty, he stopped his work and went to the brow.

Once on the ice, [REDACTED] said that he scooped out the area and began walking around taking photos. Most of his photos were of objects around the ship, and of the ice. When he saw Steve [BM3 DUQUE] with his dive tanks and equipment he made his way over to the dive staging area to watch. [REDACTED] stated that he waited a long time by the divers, but the progress being made at the dive side was very slow so he decided to leave the area and talk to other people. There was beer on the ice by the brow, and [REDACTED] said he drank three of them.

Eventually, at about 1830, he said he saw two divers in the water. After the divers submerged he walked back over to the dive side. He noted that there were tenders for each line, but no supervisor. When he got on scene, he said he felt some concern noting that "a lot" of rope had been paid out, and that in fact the line was nearing the end of the spool. He also noted that the line looked vertical to him, and he saw only one set of bubbles. He said [REDACTED] was trying to signal the diver on his line, but was getting no response, so a decision was made to begin bringing the divers up. He said that [REDACTED] was also asking for help, and that three to five other crewmembers quickly began to assist each of the tenders. [REDACTED] also helped, and said the line felt very heavy.

After some time pulling on the line, he is not sure how long; BM3 DUQUE was brought to the surface, but was completely non-responsive. His mask was still on, but there was a pink froth both inside and out of the mask, and his face was dark. The pink foam seemed to be oozing through the mask's regulator. Overall "he didn't look good." He did not seem to be moving, and was limp. When the mask was removed he did not notice any water in the mask, but it was full of blood and foam. By this time, first responders were running to the scene, and Jessica [LT HILL] was hauled up as well. He could not see her clearly, but CPR was being performed on her.

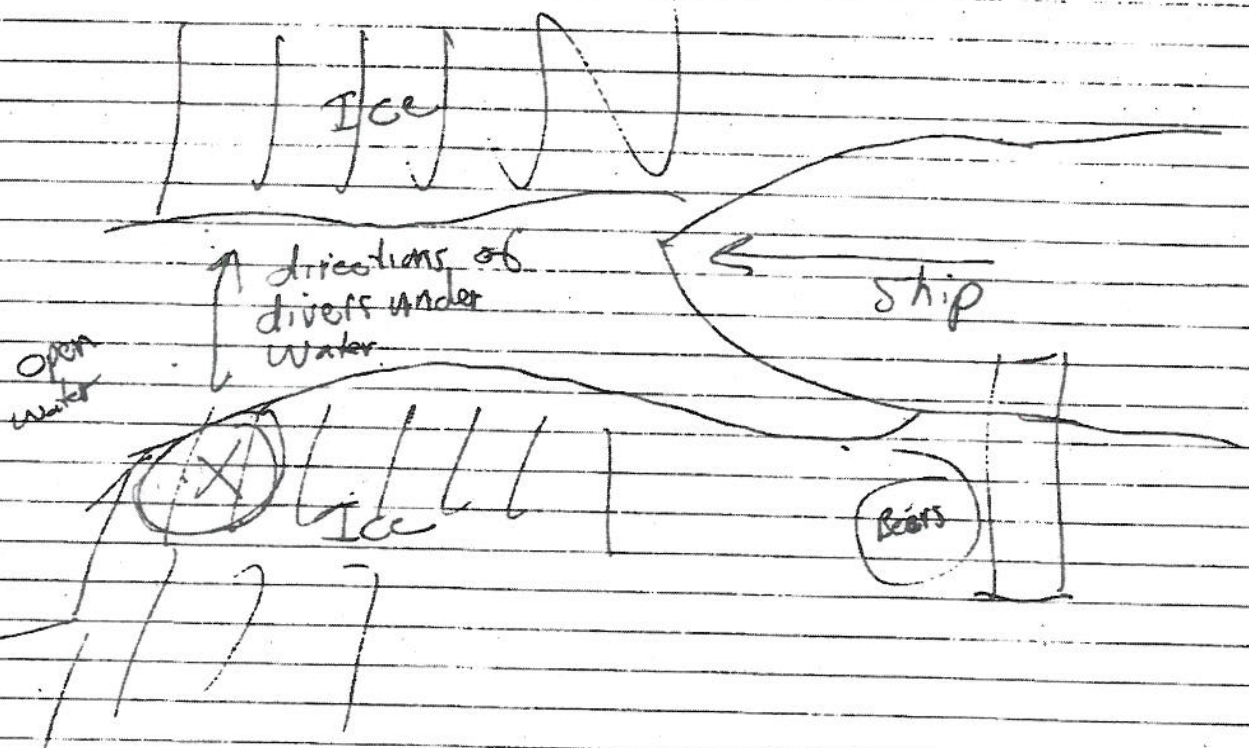
(b) (6) + 7(c)

He said he left the scene at that time, and returned to the ship.

Responding to questions, [REDACTED] added that he heard later the dive was supposed to be no deeper than 20 feet, and that he did not see any pre-brief done before the dive operation.

[REDACTED] drew a picture of the ice liberty and dive side.

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8-21-06

ENCLOSURE(18)

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